

FORT WILKINS MILITARY RESERVATION, MICHIGAN.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN RELATION to

The military reservation at Fort Wilkins, Michigan.

JUNE 19, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 25, 1874.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the House of Representatives, for the information of the Committee on Military Affairs, in compliance with the request of said committee, of the 9th instant, a copy of the letter of General Hancock, reporting the quantity of land, and value of buildings thereon, included in the military reservation at Fort Wilkins, Michigan. It is believed this report gives the information desired by the committee.

The reservation was declared by the President August 19, 1853, and it covered lots 2 and 3 of section 33, and lot 5 of section 34, in township 59 north, of range 28 west.

WM. W. BELKNAP.
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC,
New York, May 16, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, this day, of copy of letter of Honorable John Coburn, chairman of House Military Committee, to the Secretary of War, asking information as to the "quantity of land in the reserve at Fort Wilkins, Michigan, and the value of buildings thereon," and, in compliance with your instructions indorsed thereon, to report that there is no information in the matter on file at these headquarters other than that contained in the "outline description of posts in the Military Division of the Atlantic," prepared by Lieut. Col. Stewart Van Vliet, deputy quartermaster-general, in May 1870, a copy of which is presumed to be on file in your office and in the office of the Quartermaster-General.

From this "outline description" it appears that the reservation is about one and a half miles long and one-third mile wide, and that the following buildings are on the reservation:

QUARTERS.

For officers—three buildings, containing seven sets of quarters. For men—two buildings sixty by twenty-one feet each, suitable for one company, two kitchens with mess-rooms twenty-eight and one-half by twenty-one feet each, and four buildings thirty by seventeen and one-half feet each, containing eight rooms, for married men and laundresses. All log and frame buildings in fair condition, needing, however, constant repairs.

STORE-HOUSES.

One two-story frame building, forty-seven by twenty-four feet, used for storing quartermaster's property, and clothing, camp and garrison equipage, on upper floor, and subsistence stores on lower floor. This store house is poor and somewhat dilapidated. One log-building, thirty and one-half by twenty-three and three-fourths feet, used for storing straw, shingles, &c., in poor condition.

HOSPITAL, GUARD-HOUSE, ETC.

Hospital: One one-story log and frame building, thirty-three by twenty-two feet, containing one ward-room, one dispensary, and one store-room, with kitchen and wood-shed attached condition fair. Guard-house: One one-story log and frame building, twenty-five by thirty-one feet, containing one guard-room, one prison-room, and three cells; condition fair. Stable: One log-building, thirty-nine by twenty-four feet, with loft for hay; condition poor. Carpenter-shop: Two log and frame buildings; condition fair. Bake-house: One log-building, twenty-four by nineteen and one-half feet; condition very poor. Magazine: Built of stone, arched and shingled, thirteen and one-half by thirteen feet; in good order. Ice house: Sixteen by thirteen and one-half feet; in fair order.

The nearest military post to Fort Wilkins is Fort Brady, distant about 314 miles, and to send an officer from that post to make an accurate survey of the reservation, and to appraise the buildings thereon, would take considerable time and involve some expense. If, however, the information contained in the "outline description" is not deemed sufficient, and it is desired that I shall send a competent officer to Fort Wilkins to report fully in the matter, I respectfully request instructions to that effect at an early date.

I return herewith the copy of Mr. Coburn's letter and inclosure.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WINFIELD S. HANCOCK,

Major-General, U. S. A., Commanding.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL U. S. A.,

Washington, D. C.